New tourism development projects for Orissa

4776. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourism development projects taken up in the State of Orissa with Central assistance during the last three years;

(b) the amount of Central assistance released for those projects and actual amount spent on these projects during these years;

(c) whether any new tourism development project have been proposed to be taken up in that State in 2003-2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the last three years the number of tourism development projects sanctioned in Orissa are as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2000-01	4	156.90	47.07
2001-02	4	38.05	27.12
2002-03	2	47.50	15.75

Out of these 10 projects, 3 projects have been dropped on the advice of the State Government.

(c) and (d) During 2003-2004, no project has been sanctioned as yet.

Investment in travel and tourism sector

4777. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have invited International entrepreneurs to invest in travel and tourism in view of vast opportunities and Government priority to developing the multi-crore sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has identified tourism as a high priority industry for investment. 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in the hotels and

tourism sector on automatic approval route, with a view to encouraging international entrepreneurs to invest in the industry.

The Government of India, Department of Tourism has also brought out a special brochure "Investment Opportunities in Tourism" which is distributed through the India tourism offices.

Chain of science cities

4778. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a chain of science cities in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including cities to be selected and developed initially together with the funding pattern; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed years back that a science city be set up in Hyderabad similar to one functioning in Kolkata and if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India facilitates the setting up of Science Cities on the basis of proposals received from agencies including the State Governments, after examining the merits of the project proposals. So far, Government has approved setting up of Science Cities in Kapurthala (Punjab) and Gandhinagar (Gujarat). In addition, the Regional Science Centre at Lucknow has been taken up for upgradation to a Regional Science City.

As per guidelines now formulated for setting up of Science Cities, the total cost of the Science City shall be between Rs. 65—70 crores. Equity share of the Central Government and the concerned State Government shall be 13%. The balance equity of 74% shall be raised through private entrepreneurs or any other agency of the State Government.

Any proposal for Science Cities will be considered only if they conform to these guidelines.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to prepare a detailed project proposal in conformity with the prescribed guidelines, alongwith the feasibility report, for Government of India's consideration.